Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14 **(canceled)**

15. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly comprising:

a) a guide element for guiding a shaft, said guide element having a groove extending therein, said groove having a bottom wall and a first side wall;

b) a sealing ring, said sealing ring received within said groove, said sealing ring having a cylindrical inner surface adapted to be positioned adjacent a shaft surface to be sealed, an end face disposed adjacent said groove first side wall and an outer cylindrical surface disposed adjacent said groove bottom wall; and

c) a seal, said seal disposed between said sealing ring end face and said groove first side wall so that any pressure occurring between said groove bottom wall and said sealing ring outer cylindrical surface is maintained less than the pressure between the shaft and said guide element.

16. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 15 and wherein said seal includes an annular sealing element

in the form of a plastic sealing ring coaxially aligned with said sealing ring and having a width less than that of said sealing ring and a thickness greater than the distance extending between said groove first side wall and said sealing ring end face.

17. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 16 and wherein said seal further includes a formed part, said formed part is operatively associated with said plastic sealing ring so that when said seal is charged with a pressure medium, said formed part will press said plastic sealing ring against said groove first side wall.

18. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 17 and further including:

a) an annular groove, said annular groove extends into said sealing ring end face and is configured to receive said formed part so that when said seal is charged with a pressure medium said formed part is deformed in such a manner that the force of said plastic sealing ring pressing against said groove first side wall is caused to be increased.

19. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 17 and further including:

a) an annular groove, said annular groove extends into said groove first sidewall and is configured to receive said formed part

so that when said seal is charged with a pressure medium said formed part is deformed in such a manner that the force of said plastic sealing ring pressing against said sealing ring end face is caused to be increased.

20. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 17 and wherein said formed part is a ring, said ring is at least one of flexible and elastic and is constructed from at least one of plastic and rubber material.

21. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 15 and wherein said sealing ring has a second end face and said guide element groove has a second side wall, a friction-reducing intermediate disk is provided between said sealing ring second end face and said guide element groove second side wall.

22. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 21 and further including:

a) at least one hydrostatic relief channel, said at least one hydrostatic relief channel operatively associated with said sealing ring and extending therein from said end face to said second end face to provide fluid communication therebetween.

23. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 15 and further including:

a) at least one annular groove, said at least one annular groove extending in said sealing ring cylindrical outer surface.

24. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 15 and further including:

a) a second side wall, said second side wall associated with said guide element groove; and

b) a drainage channel, said drainage channel operatively associated with said second side wall and extending outwardly through said guide element from said second side wall.

25. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal assembly, said seal assembly comprising:

a) a piston body operatively associated with a cylinder, said piston body having a groove extending therein, said groove having a bottom wall, a first side wall and a second side wall;

b) a sealing ring, said sealing ring received within said groove, said sealing ring having a cylindrical outer surface adapted to be positioned adjacent a cylinder surface to be sealed, a first end face disposed adjacent said groove first side wall, a second end face disposed adjacent said groove second side wall and

an inner cylindrical surface disposed adjacent said groove bottom wall;

c) a first seal, said first seal disposed between said sealing ring first end face and said groove first side wall so that any pressure occurring between said groove bottom wall and said sealing ring inner cylindrical surface is maintained less than the pressure between said sealing ring cylindrical outer surface and said cylinder surface to be sealed; and

d) a second seal, said second seal disposed between said sealing ring second end face and said groove second side wall so that any pressure occurring between said groove bottom wall and said sealing ring inner cylindrical surface is maintained less than the pressure between said sealing ring cylindrical outer surface and said cylinder surface to be sealed.

26. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal as in claim 25 and further including:

a) at least one drainage channel, said at least one drainage channel for diverting any pressure medium admitted between said groove bottom wall and said sealing ring inner cylindrical surface, said at least one drainage channel provided between said first seal and said second seal.

27. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal as in claim 26 and wherein said at least one drainage channel connects the region

extending between said groove bottom wall and said sealing ring inner cylindrical surface with at least one of a pressure chamber or an essentially non-pressurized region.

28. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal as in claim 27 and wherein said at least one drainage channel provided with a one way valve to selectively open and close said at least one drainage channel.

29. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 25 and wherein said second seal includes an second annular sealing element in the form of a second plastic sealing ring coaxially aligned with said sealing ring and having a width less than that of said sealing ring and a thickness greater than the distance extending between said groove second side wall and said sealing ring second end face.

30. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 29 and wherein said seal further includes a second formed part, such second formed part is operatively associated with said second plastic sealing ring so that when said second seal is charged with a pressure medium, said second formed part will press said second plastic sealing ring against said second side wall.

31. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 25 and further including:

a) a first drainage channel, said first drainage channel for diverting any pressure medium admitted between said groove bottom wall and said sealing ring inner cylindrical surface, said first draining channel connected to a first pressure chamber;

b) a second drainage channel, said second drainage channel for diverting any pressure medium admitted between said groove bottom wall and said sealing ring inner cylindrical surface, said second drainage channel connected to a second pressure chamber; and

c) said first and said second pressure chambers are adapted to be pressurized alternatively with respect to each other.

32. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly comprising:

a) a guide element for guiding a shaft, said guide element having a groove extending therein, said groove having a bottom wall and a first side wall;

b) a sealing ring, said sealing ring received within said groove, said sealing ring having a cylindrical inner surface adapted to be positioned adjacent a shaft surface to be sealed, an end face disposed adjacent said groove first side wall and an outer cylindrical surface disposed adjacent said groove bottom wall; and

c) a seal, said seal disposed between said sealing ring end face and said groove first side wall so that when said seal is

subjected to a pressure medium, propagation of the pressure medium is caused to take place only between said cylindrical inner surface of said sealing ring and the shaft surface to be sealed with a substantially continuous decrease in pressure occurring along the length of said sealing ring.

33. **(withdrawn)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 25 and wherein said first seal includes an first annular sealing element in the form of a first plastic sealing ring coaxially aligned with said sealing ring and having a width less than that of said sealing ring and a thickness greater than the distance extending between said groove first side wall and said sealing ring first end face.